

The provisions of DPM-2006 relating to Integrity Pact, pre-bid conference for firming up technical specifications and placing details of award of tenders/ contracts in the Website of the Ministry of Defence is to ensure greater transparency and enhancement of serviceability levels, fleet availability of the Services.

As per DPP-2006 the Integrity Pact is a binding agreement between Government Department and bidder for specific contracts in which the Government promises that it will not accept bribes during the procurement process and bidders promise that they will not offer bribes. Any breach of the provisions of the Integrity Pact by the bidder or any one employed by him or acting on his behalf (whether with or without the knowledge of the bidder) shall entitle the Government of India to take actions provided in the Pact against the bidder.

DPP-2006 and DPM-2006 have been placed on the Website of Ministry of Defence (www.mod.nic.in).

Delay in procurement of military hardware and software

743. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the views expressed at the recent combined commanders' conference, highlighting, *inter alia*, that long delays in procurement of desperately-needed military hardware and software, coupled with tardy progress in-DRDO projects, with unrealistic time-frames, was causing a steady depletion in the war-waging potential of the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to speed up the pace for developing and producing indigenously and sourcing from elsewhere the required hardware and software, so that the process of modernization of the defence forces is not derailed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The issue of delay in procurement was not discussed in the combined commanders' conference. However, the Chief of the Naval Staff, while highlighting contributions made by the DRDO, emphasized the need for DRDO to be more realistic about developmental time-frames.

(c) Modernisation of armed forces is a continuous process. The forces are provided with modern weapons and equipment to appropriately equip them for performing their assigned tasks. Ministry has also undertaken measures to indigenously develop and produce the required hardware and software to the maximum extent possible. As the research & development and indigenous production thereafter is a time consuming process, procurement of critical requirements of weapon systems and equipment needed on immediate basis is also allowed at times on the merits of a case. The Defence Procurement Procedure 2006 is followed in this regard.

DRDO labs are engaged in indigenous development of high technology weapon systems and platforms. There have been some delays in timely completion of some of the projects due to technological complexities, technological embargoes and sanctions imposed by the technologically advanced countries, lack of adequate infrastructure in the country, etc., DRDO has taken steps to speed up the process of completion of projects through multi-tier review mechanism, adopting 'concurrent engineering' and 'joint venture' approaches, involvement of users since starting of the projects etc.

Indian Soldiers in UN Peace-Keeping Force

†744. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian soldiers deployed in different countries in Peace-keeping Force, constituted under UN; and

(b) the term of their deployment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The number of Armed Forces personnel deployed in various United Nations (UN) peace-keeping missions is dynamic in nature and keeps varying on a continuous basis. A total of 8922 Indian personnel are deployed in various UN missions, at present. The terms and conditions of the personnel deployed in these missions are governed by the orders/instructions issued by the UN and Government of India in this regard.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.